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UNCLAS KATHMANDU 002340

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR CA/OCS/ACS/NESA LESLIE IMES AND SA/INS STEPHEN
BLAKE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CASC](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: Nepal Wardens' Message Regarding Political
Party-Declared Closure for October 28

On October 27, 2005, Post disseminated the following announcement to American citizens in Nepal via its warden network. OCS Duty Officer Mike Meszaros pre-cleared the text.

[Begin text]

This warden's message is being issued to alert American citizens that the Seven-Party Alliance has called for an 'Upatyaka Bandh' (shutdown strike) in the Kathmandu Valley on Friday, October 28, 2005. The Embassy has also heard rumors that the All Nepali National Free Students' Union - Revolutionary (ANNFSU-R) may call a transportation closure from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 29, 2005 for the Narayani & Bagmati zones of Nepal (includes the Kathmandu Valley).

Protestors during previous bandhs called by the political parties have used violence, including burning vehicles, throwing rocks during street demonstrations and burning tires to block traffic. Vehicles, including private vehicles, have been damaged. In some cases, police have responded with tear gas and baton charges.

Given the nature, intensity and unpredictability of these disturbances, American citizens are urged to exercise special caution at this time, avoid road travel and maintain a low profile. Americans are strongly urged to avoid areas where demonstrations are occurring or crowds are forming. If you must travel, wait until a pattern of traffic is well established. Taxi and bus services may not be available.

For further information about security conditions in Nepal, American citizens are strongly encouraged to refer to the Consular Information Sheet for Nepal and the current Travel Warning for Nepal issued on June 24, 2005 (<http://travel.state.gov>). American citizens are also encouraged to refer to the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement for additional travel safety and security information. These documents are available on the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs' home page at <http://travel.state.gov> and the American Embassy in Nepal's home page at <http://www.nepal.usembassy.gov>. Specific information may also be obtained by calling the Embassy at (977-1) 444-5577 and asking for the American Citizen Services unit of the Consular Section. In the event of a communications blackout, security information will be left at all of the major hotels in Kathmandu.

[End text]

MORIARTY